

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01
VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 /041 W
-----311336Z 092473 /45

R 311246Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09437

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SREF PFOR CVIS VS SN
SUBJ: FRENCH ASSISTANCE FOR POTENTIAL AMERICAN
IMMIGRANTS IN VIETNAM

REF: (A) STATE 068806, (B) PARIS 5375,
(C) SINGAPORE 1141

1. IN A CALL ON CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE
CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, MARCH 29, CONGEN AND
EMBOFF INFORMED CHAYET OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING
UNIFICATION OF FAMILIES WHICH THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION
HAD WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN HANOI (PARAS 2-4, REF A).
CHAYET WAS PLEASED THAT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH PART OF THIS
PROBLEM WOULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BY THE USG WITH THE
SRV. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE SRV PROVIDED THE EXIT
PERMITS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE
DEPARTURES ON THE FRENCH PLANE WITHOUT ANY FURTHER
FRENCH DOCUMENTATION, BUT OUR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK SHOULD
WORK OUT A PROCEDURE WITH THE RTG FOR THE ENTRY INTO
THAILAND. HE FORESAW NO PROBLEMS IN FRENCH PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE, THE TWO DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE HANOI'S
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POSITION ON EXIT PERMITS AND BANGKOK'S POSITION ON
ADMITTING THE PASSENGERS ON THE FRENCH FLIGHTS. CHAYET
SAID THAT THEY HAD FAIRLY RECENTLY HAD SO MANY
PROBLEMS WITH THE RTG THAT THEY HAD TO RESORT TO
THREATENING TO TERMINATE THEIR ENTIRE PROGRAM OF TAKING
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND UNLESS THE THAI
STOPPED ITS HARRASSMENT OF THE FRENCH FLIGHTS FROM

SAIGON. THE RTG BACKED DOWN QUICKLY WHEN IT SAW THAT THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO PLAY ROUGHLY.

2. CHAYET NOTED THAT THE NAMES GIVEN TO THE VIETNAMESE TO DATE BY THE RED CROSS REPRESENTED ONLY A VERY SMALL RANGE OF THE CATEGORIES OF "CLOSE RELATIVES" AS DEFINED BY THE VIETNAMESE. CHAYET THOUGHT IT QUITE LIKELY THAT HANOI WAS PREPARED TO APPLY FOR THE AMERICANS THE SAME CRITERIA WHICH THEY USED FOR THE FRENCH AND OTHER COUNTRIES: THAT IS, PARENTS, PARENTS-IN-LAW, SPOUSES, CHILDREN (UNMARRIED BOYS UNDER 18, GIRLS UNDER 25), STEP-CHILDREN, SIBLINGS (UNMARRIED BOYS UNDER 18, GIRLS UNDER 25). THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO HELP IN THESE CASES ALSO. SINCE THE FRENCH PROGRAM IS COORDINATED ALSO BY THEIR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, HE AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT ALL PETITIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR PERSONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY GET AN EXIT PERMIT AND LEAVE ON THE FRENCH PLANE, BE HELD BY OUR EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

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3. CHAYET REALIZED THAT DESPITE PHAN HIEN'S STATEMENT THAT THE SRV WOULD BE "GENEROUS" IN THE UNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, IT MIGHT STILL BE EASIER IN SOME CASES FOR THE

PERSON ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE VIETNAM TO CLAIM THAT HE
WOULD BE JOINING RELATIVES IN FRANCE. IN SOME CASES
THE PRESENTATION OF THE "CERTIFICAT D'HEBERGEMENT"
(COMPARABLE TO AN AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT) HAS BEEN
SUFFICIENT PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP TO SOMEONE IN FRANCE
TO PERMIT THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO GRANT AN EXIT
PERMIT. CHAYET DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE FOR
MOST PERSONS WHOSE RELATIVES ARE IN THE US RATHER THAN
IN FRANCE SINCE THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES
THROUGH EXAMINATION OF MAIL AND OTHER POLICE ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN GENERALLY PRETTY MUCH AWARE OF WHAT PERSONS
HAVE WHAT RELATIVES WHERE. CHAYET DID NOT OFFER TO
FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF "CERTIFICATS D'HEBERGEMENT,"
BUT IMPLIED THAT FRENCH COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER MIGHT
IN SOME CASES FACILITATE OVERCOMING THE PRINCIPAL
OBSTACLE, THE OBTAINING OF THE VIETNAMESE EXIT PERMIT.
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4. CHAYET SUGGESTED THAT WE GO BACK TO THE FRENCH AFTER
WE HAVE OUR OWN CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON THIS
SUBJECT. HE THOUGHT THAT FRENCH BACKGROUND ON THIS
SUBJECT COULD HELP US IN DEALING WITH ANY OBSTACLES THE
VIETNAMESE MAY RAISE.
GAMMON

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